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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D. T. E. 01-27 March 2, 2001

Petition of Bay State Gas Company for Pre-Approval of Energy Efficiency Programs and Recovery of Energy Efficiency Related Costs for the period May 1, 2001, through April 30, 2004.

On February 1, 2001, Bay State Gas Company ("Bay State" or "Company") filed a proposal with the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") for approval of the Company's three-year energy conservation or demand-side management and market transformation program and budget for the period May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2004.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's proposal on March 22, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. at the Department's offices, One South Station,

2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Following the public hearing, the Department will conduct a procedural conference.

Any person who desires to participate in this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, and one copy with the Hearing Officer, John J. Geary. The original and copies should be delivered to the Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.), March 15, 2001.

All written pleadings or comments also must be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" floppy diskette, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the diskette label must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) docket number; (3) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (4) a brief descriptive title of document (e.g., comments or petition to intervene). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word, (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.state.ma.us/dpu/>.

A copy of the Company's filing is on file at the Department's offices, One South

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Station, Boston, Massachusetts for public viewing during business hours. In addition, copies are on file for public viewing at the offices of the Company, 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact Stephan H. Bryant, at (508) 836-7267 or Derek M. Buchler, at (508) 836-7344. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact John J. Geary, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3500.

ORDER OF NOTICE

D. T. E. 01-27 March 2, 2001

Petition of Bay State Gas Company for Pre-Approval of Energy Efficiency Programs and Recovery of Energy Efficiency Related Costs for the period May 1, 2001, through April 30, 2004.

Bay State Gas Company ("Bay State" or "Company") shall, no later than

seven (7) days prior to March 22, 2001, give notice of said hearing by publication in the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune, The Enterprise, The Patriot Ledger, The Sun Chronicle, The Springfield Union-News, and either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald. In addition, the Company shall also provide a copy of this notice to all participants in Bay State Gas Company, D. T. E. 01-27. Bay State is required to make return of service and proof of publication to the Department at the time of the hearing.

By Order of the Department

MARY L. COTTRELL, SECRETARY